House Education Committee Amendment No. 6 (adopted as Amendment #13 in the committee packet)

Amendment No. 6 to HB0787

Winningham Signature of Sponsor

AMEND	Senate Bill No. 437*	

House Bill No. 787

FILED
Date
Time
Clerk
Comm. Amdt

by designating the existing language in amendatory § 49-4-922 of Section 1 of the bill as amended as subsection (a) and by add the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

(b) Tennessee HOPE scholarships under this part shall be awarded only to those students who graduate from high school, complete a home school program meeting all requirements of § 49-6-3050, or obtain a GED after January 1, 2003, but prior to July 1, 2005.

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting in its entirety amendatory § 49-4-918 of Section 1 of the bill as amended and by substituting instead the language "[Reserved]".

AND FURTHER AMEND by deleting the language "§ 49-4-918 and" from amendatory § 49-4-913(a) of Section 1 of the bill as amended.

AND FURTHER AMEND by adding the following new sections immediately after Section 3 of the bill as amended and by renumbering subsequent sections accordingly:

SECTION .

The general assembly finds and declares that:

(1) The citizens of Tennessee in November 2002 approved an amendment to the Constitution of Tennessee to permit a state lottery, if the net proceeds of such lottery are used to provide financial assistance to Tennesseans to enable them to attend postsecondary institutions in this state, with excess proceeds used for capital outlay projects for K-12 educational facilities and early learning and after school programs;

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- (2) The availability of such financial assistance for postsecondary education should be structured to inspire students from a very early age to aspire to academic excellence in order to attend institutions of higher education;
- (3) Such financial assistance should afford Tennesseans without the means the opportunity to attend institutions of higher education;
- (4) Such financial assistance should be provided in a manner that is fair and equitable and assists the greatest number of Tennesseans in attending postsecondary institutions;
- (5) Such financial assistance should be used to ensure that the number of Tennesseans holding associate and baccalaureate degrees increases dramatically;
- (6) The ultimate goal of such financial assistance should be to improve quality of life for all Tennesseans and to enhance the desirability of Tennessee as a place without equal in which to live and work; and
- (7) The decision as to how to provide such financial assistance should not be made in haste or without thorough deliberation, but students who will graduate from high school in 2003 and 2004 deserve an opportunity to obtain assistance with the costs of higher education from net lottery proceeds.

SECTION .

(a) There is hereby created a special joint committee to study the manner in which financial assistance for Tennesseans to attend postsecondary institutions located

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in Tennessee shall be provided from net lottery proceeds of the state lottery established pursuant to Article XI, Section 5 of the Constitution of Tennessee.

- (b) The committee shall consist of six (6) members of the house of representatives and six (6) members of the senate. The chairs of the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate and the chair of the higher education subcommittee of the education committee of the house of representatives shall serve on the committee. The speaker of the house shall appoint the remaining members of the committee from the house of representatives. The speaker of the senate shall appoint the remaining members of the committee from the senate.
- (c) All appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee.
- (d) The special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly; and at its first meeting, the committee shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers as the committee deems necessary.
- (e) The committee shall specifically review and study the ASPIRE scholarship program as a program that inspires students at an early age to aspire to educational excellence.
- (f) Prior to the second Tuesday in January 2004, the committee shall propose and cause to be drafted legislation to provide financial assistance from lottery proceeds to Tennessee citizens to enable attendance at postsecondary institutions in this state.